

The United States has spared no effort—by diplomacy, by negotiation, by every other means—to secure fair treatment of our captive sons and brothers and to obtain their ultimate freedom.

As we set aside a special week of national concern for this continuing tragedy, and a special day of prayer for its resolution, we do so with a determination to persist in this effort—for principle, for peace, for the sake of these brave men and their parents and brothers and sisters and wives and the children some have never seen.

Ante, p. 61.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, as requested by the Congress in Senate Joint Resolution 189, do hereby designate the period of March 26 through April 1, 1972, as National Week of Concern for Prisoners of War/Missing in Action, and Sunday, March 26, 1972, as a National Day of Prayer for the lives and safety of these men.

I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this week with such appropriate ceremonies and activities as will stir and sustain widespread concern for the missing men and prisoners, nourish the patient courage of their loved ones, and—above all—hasten the day of their safe return to home and freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-sixth.



PROCLAMATION 4116

International Book Year, 1972

March 13, 1972

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Books and libraries are among mankind's greatest sources of enlightenment. They contain the cultural inheritance of our forefathers and the core of our educational system. In the words of Thomas Carlyle: "All that Mankind has done, thought, gained or been; it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of Books."

As this Nation approaches the beginning of its third century, we should remind ourselves that nothing in our heritage is more precious than the

right to express ourselves freely on any subject and the right of access to the expressions of others.

Today, with high-speed presses, mass distribution of printed matter, and well-stocked libraries, we may carelessly assume that the knowledge contained in books is equally available to all Americans. But the right to read requires more than just the availability of books. It also requires the ability to read. In spite of our commitment to the concept of universal education, millions of our citizens are still so deficient in reading skills that the covers of books are closed to them.

It is incumbent upon all who desire a better America, public officials and private citizens alike, to help improve both our intellectual resources and the free flow of information within and across our national boundaries.

First, we must abolish functional illiteracy so that all our citizens, rich and poor alike, will have a better chance to learn from the accumulated wisdom of man. This is the goal of our "Right to Read" program, and to achieve it we must not only eliminate the existing reading and literacy deficiencies of today, but also reform our educational institutions so that these problems will not reoccur tomorrow.

Second, we must continue to foster the growth of learning and culture by protecting intellectual production through copyright. During the course of this year, the United States and other member countries of the Universal Copyright Convention will be considering adherence to the 1971 revisions of the Universal Copyright Convention, which strengthen international copyright protection for American works and assist developing countries to meet their need for educational materials. At the same time, we should continue our efforts in this country to modernize our own copyright laws.

6 UST 2731.

In recognition of the importance of books in our society, and the observance by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the year 1972 as International Book Year, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 149 of December 15, 1971, has requested the President to issue a proclamation designating 1972 as International Book Year.

85 Stat. 647.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 1972 as International Book Year in the United States. I call upon the people of the United States, interested groups and organizations, appropriate officials of the Federal Government and of State and local governments to provide for the observance of International Book Year with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-sixth.



PROCLAMATION 4117

National Wildlife Week

March 18, 1972

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For much of our history, Americans have confronted nature as a hostile force to be reckoned with and overcome. The wild creatures of forest and plains, mountains and swamp, were seen as threats to human life and progress on the edge of the wilderness. They were beaten back or disposed of accordingly.

More recently, Americans have come to see wild animals as co-inhabitants of a small planet, fellow creatures who have a rightful place in a healthy natural environment. Ecologist, philosopher, and outdoorsman alike have come to know the truth of Thoreau's words, "In Wilderness is the preservation of the World." Men and animals can and must share the earth. The various forms of wildlife which give life and variety and beauty to the environment can and must be recognized, appreciated, and protected.

But the hour is late, and the time to act is now. Already some species of wildlife have been extinguished forever, and many others have been sharply reduced in numbers. Economically, we can now afford to take humane action to reverse this tragic trend. Morally and esthetically, we cannot afford to do otherwise.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning March 19, 1972, as National Wildlife Week.

I call upon all our citizens to join during that week in support of the many organizations dedicated to preserving a suitable environment for the greatest possible number of wildlife species. In particular, I urge broad public support for, and prompt congressional action on, my recent proposals for better protection of endangered species.